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Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Care Providers

FROM: Office of Child and Family Services

DATE: August 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Stipend for Newly Licensed Family Child Care Providers

Congress approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) (Public Law 117-2) and it was signed into law on March 11, 2021. This included \$14.99 billion in supplemental Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Funds. Maine received \$45.7 million of these Federal funds. The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) will begin providing a one-time stipend to all newly licensed family child care providers. This initiative is in alignment with the Mills Administration's **Child Care Plan for Maine**, to support Maine families' access to child care before and during the pandemic and one of the Children's Cabinet's goals for increasing access to high-quality child care and expanding Maine's child care workforce.

OCFS has obligated ARPA CCDF Discretionary funds to distribute a one-time, \$2,000 stipend for any newly licensed Family Child Care (FCC) providers. Stipends will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. These funds are available immediately and will be ongoing through 9/30/23 or as funds are available.

Newly licensed FCC providers must meet the following criteria:

- Newly licensed FCC on or after July 1, 2021; and
- Have a valid Vendor Code with OCFS
 - For information on Vendor Codes contact Vickie Bussey at (207) 624-7909 or Vickie.Bussey@maine.gov

Programs are **still** eligible for the current open application for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSA) Stabilization Grants and the upcoming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization grants.

To receive a stipend or for more information contact Kerri Wyman at Kerri.Wyman@Maine.gov or (207) 626-8660.